

III. Answer these questions in 30–40 words.

Q1. Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of the *pungi*?

Ans. Aurangzeb banned the playing of the *pungi* because it had a shrill and unpleasant sound.

Q2. How is a shehnai different from a *pungi*?

Ans. A shehnai is a pipe with a natural hollow that is longer and broader than a *pungi*. It has seven holes on the body of the pipe.

Q3. Where was the shehnai played traditionally? How did Bismillah Khan change this?

Ans. The shehnai was played traditionally in the temple at the royal courts and on the occasion of weddings. The credit must go to Bismillah Khan to take this instrument onto the classical stage.

Q4. When and how did Bismillah Khan get his big break?

Ans. Bismillah Khan got his big break with the opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938.

Q5. Where did Bismillah Khan play the shehnai on 15 August 1947? Why was the event historic?

Ans. Bismillah Khan played the shehnai on 15 August 1947 at the Red Fort. He was the first Indian to greet the nation with his musical instrument. This event was historic because we got independence on that day. He poured his heart out in the presence of a large number of people including Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.

Q6. Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a shehnai school in the U.S.A.?

Ans. He refused to start a shehnai school in the USA because he never wanted to leave India. He loved India so much and he did not want to settle anywhere except India. That is why whenever he was in a foreign country, he kept yearning to see Hindustan.